

# **Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee**

## **FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES**

**August 22, 2002**

**Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:**

**\*\*Carpenters Room (access from Airport Way)\*\***

**SPU Operations Control Center**

**2700 Airport Way South**

**Seattle, WA**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Bruce Bachen (SPU), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Bill McKay (Puget Sound Anglers), Steve Foley (WDFW)

**Other Participants:** Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Joan Thomas (WDFW), Brodie Antipa (WDFW) and Paul Faulds (SPU)

### **I) Call to order**

*Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.*

### **II) Approval of agenda**

*Members approved the revised agenda distributed at the meeting.*

### **III) Meeting minutes review and approval from June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Members approved the minutes from June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>.*

### **IV) Changes to AFC members - King County**

*Bruce reported to members that Scott Brewer changed employment and would no longer be representing King County on the AFC and Paul F. provided members with an email exchange between SPU and KC explaining the situation. Members noted the importance of having KC represented on the AFC and decided to send a letter to Kate O'Laughlin encouraging KC to select an individual who has the time to attend meetings and will provide a two-way communication link between the AFC and the KC divisions that are responsible for managing resources and regulating development along the Cedar River and in Lake Washington. The AFC also stated an individual with a background in planning and biology, a familiarity with KC permit processes, and an awareness of salmon recovery issues for Cedar River anadromous fish stocks would be ideal.*

### **V) Research and Monitoring**

*Paul F. provided members with a memorandum signed by the LMA Parties approving the transfer of funding for zooplankton monitoring to be used instead for juvenile sockeye research efforts.*

## **VI) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead**

### **Status on genetics proposal**

*Steve updated members on a genetics study Anne Marshall was putting together for Cedar River steelhead. The study would involve taking samples from steelhead at the locks, resident fish in the river, fish above Landsburg, and fish that have stayed in the lake. Steve said Anne was concerned that the WDFW lab was backlogged and suggested another lab might have a faster turn around time with the samples. Once the number of samples have been determined Steve will put together a budget and plan to collect the samples. The feasibility of collecting enough samples will need to be evaluated. Two of the biggest challenges will be collecting samples from fish residing in the lake and collecting samples from steelhead at the locks. A member stated that samples collected at the locks would determine if the steelhead were Green River stock or Cedar River stock. The sampling effort would more than likely be over a two year period and could begin as early as February 2003. Steve mentioned that Anne described the study as a follow-up to the work done by Steve Phelps. Anne also told Steve that she has department approval to put together the study design.*

### **Coho releases above Landsburg Dam**

*Steve briefed members on the coho run in the Cedar River. He described the run in the Cedar River as having a different spawning time than other coho in the basin with peak live counts in February and spawning into March. In the year 2000 smolt sampling by Dave Seiler estimated about 80,000 coho smolts going out which should result in a good return this year. Coho tend to move up river as high as they can to spawn and this year we may have a lot of fish at the dam. Consequently, a collection effort in December or January at the dam (hook and line or seine) for release up river could be successful.*

*Liz Ablow of Seattle City Light attended the meeting to explain how improvements at the Cedar Falls Powerhouse could affect coho if they are placed above Landsburg a year before passage facilities are completed. The improvements will provide more reliable flow above Landsburg and, by agreement, have in place when fish passage facilities are completed at Landsburg Dam, which won't be until next year. Construction of these improvements is followed by a critical testing period to make adjustments so that control and mechanical systems work properly under various flow conditions. This testing period has been scheduled to occur through spring of 2003. During this period, sudden flow changes are possible, even likely, and this could adversely affect adult coho or their offspring if they are placed above the Landsburg Dam this fall. Seattle City Light was also concerned that, if coho are allowed above Landsburg this year, restrictions limiting the utilities ability to fully test the new equipment could be imposed and/or if coho were lost during testing negative press could occur. AFC members recognized that there would be some elevated risk, but concluded that these risks were likely to be relatively low, even if flows underwent abrupt changes. Liz emphasized that some fish could be lost during the scheduled testing period of the new systems, and that everyone needs to understand these risks when considering the decision to proceed. There was general support for accepting the risk of some losses and proceeding with transfer of adult coho from below the dam to upper areas if sufficient numbers of coho return to the Cedar River. Further discussion will occur prior to implementation.*

## **AFC report to the LMA Parties**

*Bruce reported to members that by September 29, 2002 the AFC needs to provide the Parties to the LMA a status report on interim mitigation measures for steelhead, coho, and chinook. The report is supposed to recommend the form(s) of interim mitigation for years 2003-2008.*

## **VII) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program**

### **Interim Hatchery**

#### **Weir permit update by WDFW**

*Chuck said WDFW received the shoreline permit for the weir from King County DDES and the grading permit was expected any day. KC representatives had told Chuck it was in the mail and WDFW needed to mail back a check to cover the permit. WDFW had also not yet received the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps said that they will send out the permit as soon as they receive notification to proceed from NMFS.*

#### **Establish 2002 weir protocols and contact list**

*Brodie handed out the 2002 weir operating protocols. The members requested some additional changes to the contact lists and asked for the AFC to be added to the email list. Frank moved to accept the 2002 weir protocols with the minor changes to the contact lists, Bill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Otolith collection strategy**

*Bruce reported to the AFC that the otolith collection strategy was still under development by Steve Schroder (WDFW). He explained that a series of meetings took place in Olympia involving himself, Paul Faulds, Steve Schroder, Eric Volk, and Paul Seidel to discuss the merits of sampling otoliths from sockeye trapped at the weir. The meetings focused on developing a new more robust otolith sampling strategy from sockeye collected at the weir for spawning.*

#### **Budget savings and carry over**

*Paul F. reported to members that last year the hatchery came in under budget by \$24,000 and he commended WDFW hatchery staff for their efforts to control costs. The savings would be used to purchase necessary items for this season freeing up funds for other parts of the operation.*

### **Replacement Hatchery**

#### **Broodstock collection sites update**

*Bruce reported that at this time the broodstock collection sites that will be identified as alternatives in the EIS will be the 405 bridge site in the City of Renton, the SPU Pipeline right-of-way site, the existing weir site and the Elliot Bridge site.*

### **EIS**

#### **EIS Schedule**

*The Draft EIS release is scheduled for September 19, 2002.*

### **HSRG review of replacement hatchery**

*Bruce informed members that the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) was in the process of evaluating the interim sockeye hatchery on the Cedar River at Landsburg. He said that even though the HSRG would not likely finish evaluating hatcheries in the*

*Central Puget Sound area in time to provide input to the draft EIS for the replacement hatchery it would be a good opportunity to have them review the replacement hatchery.*

*Bruce explained that it was his understanding that the HSRG needed a formal request from a comanager to review the replacement hatchery. The AFC unanimously supported a review of the replacement hatchery by the HSRG and asked that a letter be sent to Bob Everitt of WDFW.*

**VIII) Landsburg fish passage update**  
**Construction progress report**

*Paul F. updated members on the progress with the Fish Passage Project and provided members with color photos of the rock drop structures taken by Bill Wells. He stated the rock drop structures were complete and all of the logs for the Large Woody Debris Project were in place. The construction was now more focused on finishing the concrete work at the dam so the contractors could be mostly out of the wetted channel by September 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of instream work window.*

**IX) Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)**

*There were no public comments.*

**X) Information and discussion items**  
**Distribute chinook report for brood year 2001**

**Cedar River final steelhead counts and report on the sockeye fishery**

*Steve mentioned it was a disappointing year for the steelhead return in the Cedar River. The final count was 24 redds in the river. He reported earlier that the sockeye run to Lake Washington was strong enough to support a late sport and tribal harvest.*

**Orientation date for hatchery weir operation September 23<sup>rd</sup> at (8:00 AM?)**

**Changes to AFC members - King County**

**Ingrid Spies has completed her MS Thesis describing genetic relationships between Lake Washington *O. nerka* populations**

**XI) Adjourn**

*Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM*